

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-14, and 16 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended hereby. Claim 1 is in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of Claims 1, 5-14, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,813,147 ("Jeong") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,969,647 ("Mical").

It is respectfully submitted that Jeong and Mical, alone or in any possible combination, fail to teach or suggest "first curved shapes are formed symmetrically on both side faces of the casing, the first curved faces being configured to guide the tips of the index and/or middle finger naturally onto the button by placing the stretched finger for operating the button along the first curved shape, when the user grips the casing with his/her thumb on the operation means, so that tips of the rest of the fingers are away from the lid of the disk drive unit on the rear face," as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

According to the presently claimed invention, as claimed in Claim 1, when the user grips the casing with his/her thumb on the operation, left and right index fingers and/or middle fingers are naturally placed along the first curved shapes of left and right sides of the casing, respectively. Thus, the rest of the fingers supporting the rear face of the casing also become curved naturally and are placed along the second curved face of the casing. Accordingly, the configuration of the casing makes the tips of the rest of the fingers away from the lid of the disk drive unit. In other words, the configuration of the casing reduces the gripping load on the lid of the disk drive unit by the rest fingers when the user holds the casing with his both hands.

Further, by placing the rest of the fingers along the second curved faces slanted such that a width of the cross section of the area, on which operating means are placed, gradually becomes

narrower from a nearer side to the center to the left and right sides of the casing, the user can holds the casing with his left and right palms wrapping around the left and right ends of the casing. Such holding style improves the comfortableness and handiness of the device.

In contrast, the casing disclosed in Jeong does not have a lid on its rear face. Therefore, it is needless to create the shape of the casing to avoid the adverse effect of being pushed by the user's finger when user grips the casing tightly.

Further, the casing disclosed in Mical does not have an additional LR buttons on its side face. Therefore, it is needless to create the shape of the casing to guide the index and/or middle finger of the user to the LR button on the side face. Thus, the cited references fail to disclose structural features of the casing to force the user to hold the casing to avoid finger's touching the lid of the drive unit.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claim 1, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinct over Jeong and Mical, alone or in any possible combination, if any.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

/Pedro C. Fernandez/

Pedro C. Fernandez

Reg. No. 41,741

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304

Telephone: (212) 940-6311

Fax: (212) 940-8986

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